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The ValleyStar

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Gas is on the rise

■**FUEL:** Market dictates gasoline prices.

By JON LUSKIN
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

With gas prices at an all-time high, many attempt to answer why.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Companies has recently cut back its petroleum production in an effort to raise prices through a lack of supply. However, a resurgent Asian economy has created a higher demand. Supply fell while demand rose, causing the price for one barrel of oil to shoot from as low as $11 two years ago to $30 a barrel of oil today.

Exxon Mobil's website has a page defining the reason for recent gas rate hikes.

"...in the past year... crude oil prices have doubled," according to the website. The explanation, as signed by "ExxonMobil(tm)," goes on to the theory of supply and demand: "As is typical for most manufacturers, the price consumers pay for our products rises when the price of our raw material goes up."

"Rising pump prices reflect higher worldwide crude oil prices... approximately 300 percent higher than the prices of a year-and-a-half ago," says the American Petroleum Institute, whose motto is "Representing the Nation's Oil and Natural Gas Industry." According to the API website, "U.S. motorists are also driving more... . High demand puts upward pressure on prices." According to the

SEE **GAS, PAGE 4**

Karla Guttierez/Valley Star

Some of the cast members of "Guys & Dolls" perform at the Little Theatre at Valley College.

Teacher brings relief

■**QUAKE:**Math instructor Maroquin spends time helping the quake stricken people of El Salvador.

By SOTIVEAR SIM AND ROGELIO GARCIA
STAR REPORTER

When mathematics professor Mauricio Marroquin first heard news about the Earthquake in his home country of El Salvador, he knew that he had to do something.

In a spur of the moment, he decided to raise funds for the earthquake stricken people of El Salvador who were in desperate need of food, clean water and shelter.

Marroquin did not know where to start. He made other faculty members aware of the situation of the El Salvadorian people and he was surprised by the response.

"Some teachers took the effort to collect [funds] in their class rooms and staff members from their offices," Marroquin said. "I got responses from people I didn't even know. Even my friends from the House of Billiards contributed to the campaign."

When all was said and done, Marroquin collected exactly $1,762.62 for relief efforts in El Salvador. While the money was initially going to be spent on food and water, upon arriving in to his homeland, he saw that the need of shelter was much greater.

"This made me reassess my intention with the funds that we collected," Marroquin said. "People didn't need food anymore. That need had passed. What they lacked the most was shelter."

> "I got responses from people I didn't even know. Even my friends from the House of Billards contributed to the campaign"
>
> MAURICIO MARROUQUIN

So, Marroquin joined a housing project that some close friends of his had already started. Initially they had only enough funds to build five homes, but with the funds that he contributed they were able to construct two more homes.

SEE **QUAKE, PAGE 4**

McSweeny: one tough hombre

■**BOOTCAMP:** "Boot Camp" drill instructor takes orders as a Valley student.

By SOTIVEAR SIM
STAR REPORTER

It has been a year since Leo McSweeny left the Marine Corps, but he just can't seem to leave the life of a Marine behind as he signed on as one of those lovable drill instructors in the Survivoresque show "Boot Camp."

McSweeny, a tall man with a slight accent showing his south Boston roots, doesn't look at all like his television counterpart, who is usually portrayed inches from someone's face hollering.

"I just wanted to go to school and keep a low profile," McSweeny said.

In his first semester at Valley College, only a handful of his classmates recognized him as the hard-nosed drill instructor from "Boot Camp." That changed when Access Hollywood came to his biology class to film a segment on the drill instructor slash student.

McSweeny is a 10-year veteran of the Marines, where he had a tour of duty during the aftermath of the Gulf War. He was a real life drill instructor for the Marines, taking on a bunch of kids and molding them into men. "In the Marine Corps, I would train around 60 to 100 kids, so the game show was easier with only 16 people," McSweeny said.

At about the age of 20 and right out of boot camp, he headed for the Gulf War. "I got there two days after the war ended," McSweeny said. "I just got to see the carnage. In Kuwait it was just destruction. Tanks were still burning and bodies were all over

SEE **BOOTCAMP, PAGE 4**

Armenian genocide overlooked

■**GENOCIDE:** Gathering outside Turkish Embassy to recognize Armenian genocide.

By ANDY BELICHKOV
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Four thousand people marched and gathered around the Turkish Embassy on Wilshire Boulevard in order to commemorate the Armenian Genocide on April 24 in hopes to bring the matter to a forefront in U.S. politics and have its occurrence recognized by the country.

The protest, organized by the Armenian Youth Federation of the Los Angeles area, included a number of speakers from different organizations and political backgrounds.

Active participants in the event included Greg Krikorian, newly elected school board member of the city of Glendale, who was once a member of the Armenian Youth Federation; and Ara Soujian, the president of the AYF Glendale chapter.

It was 86 years ago on April 24 when 1.5 million Armenian men, women and children were massacred by the Turkish government. Soldiers guided large groups of families through the deserts of Der Zor only to have them killed along the way or at the end of the journey. However, the United Nations does not recognize the genocide.

"This is a day for remembering our ancestors, a day for remembering and mourning the tragedy which took place in 1915," said Ara Soudjian. "It's a shame the United States of America, the proprietor of human rights, does not acknowledge the fact that a genocide took place in 1915 for the sole purpose of economic prosperity."

Soudjian said the Treaty of Sevres that Woodrow Wilson signed in 1920, which acknowledged the Armenian Genocide and sought to punish the ones who gave the orders to commit such a crime. According to

SEE **GENOCIDE, PAGE 4**

Street racing a dangerous fad

■**RACING:**Speed demons fueled by upcoming movie about street racing.

By JOHN LUSKIN
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

It is near midnight. Roscoe Boulevard is abandoned and lifeless. The dimly lit street gives way to a giant, illuminated crustacean. The sign throws light onto some two dozen cars that manage to squeeze themselves into the small confines of this self-serve island. Young people sit on their Honda Civics. Young people sit in their Acura Integras. Young people gather around any car that happens to have its hood propped open. This is where young people gather, for the street races.

This petroleum-powered event has grown in popularity in recent months, largely because of trailers and commercials of the upcoming movie, "The Fast and the Furious." And while the real life street races cannot deliver Asian models in miniskirts cleaning Toyota Supras with a California Car DusterTM; fire-spitting Eclipses donning carbon fiber hoods, two thousand dollar entry fees; or a brigade of police cars to chase participants when the races come to an abrupt end, the lure is still strong enough to draw plenty of people every week, keep them coming back, and bring newcomers consistently.

A some time veteran to this underground arena says that the street races are fun and exciting and that she gets "a rush when the cops come." Though only a spectator, this 19 year-old, who gives the name "Misty," brings along a friend who has never before been to the street races. Misty's friend, who gives no name, lowers her brow and balls her cheeks

SEE **RACING , PAGE 5**

InsideStar

Lisa Tobin/Valley Star

page 5 Guys & Dolls

■The hotbox girls are doing their dance number at the reception for Guys & Dolls held at the Little Theatre on Saturday.

page 2 Let it be known

■What would you like to see happen to the Valley Star next semester? Give us your thoughts.

EDITORIAL:

Medical marijuana

Without much of a warning, the legal use of medical marijuana went up in smoke.

On May 14, the Supreme Court ruled 8-0 that the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes in California will no longer be legal. The reasoning behind this ruling, according to Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, is that there is "no safe use even under controlled physician · supervision."

Two years ago the federal government commissioned the National Institute of Medicine to examine the safety and effectiveness of marijuana use in AIDS and cancer patients.

Their findings were that smoking marijuana is moderately well suited for easing the symptoms of AIDS wasting, vomiting caused by chemotherapy as well as various neurological disorders. In these cases, marijuana use has proven itself to be more therapeutic than the federal government would like to admit.

The result of this ruling would most likely force patients to turn to street dealers where the product is not properly regulated by a physician or by the "cannabis pharmacies" or "cannabis clubs."

The quality of street marijuana does not guarantee effective results for the intended medicinal purposes of alleviating their pain. In fact, more harm than good can come from the use of untested marijuana.

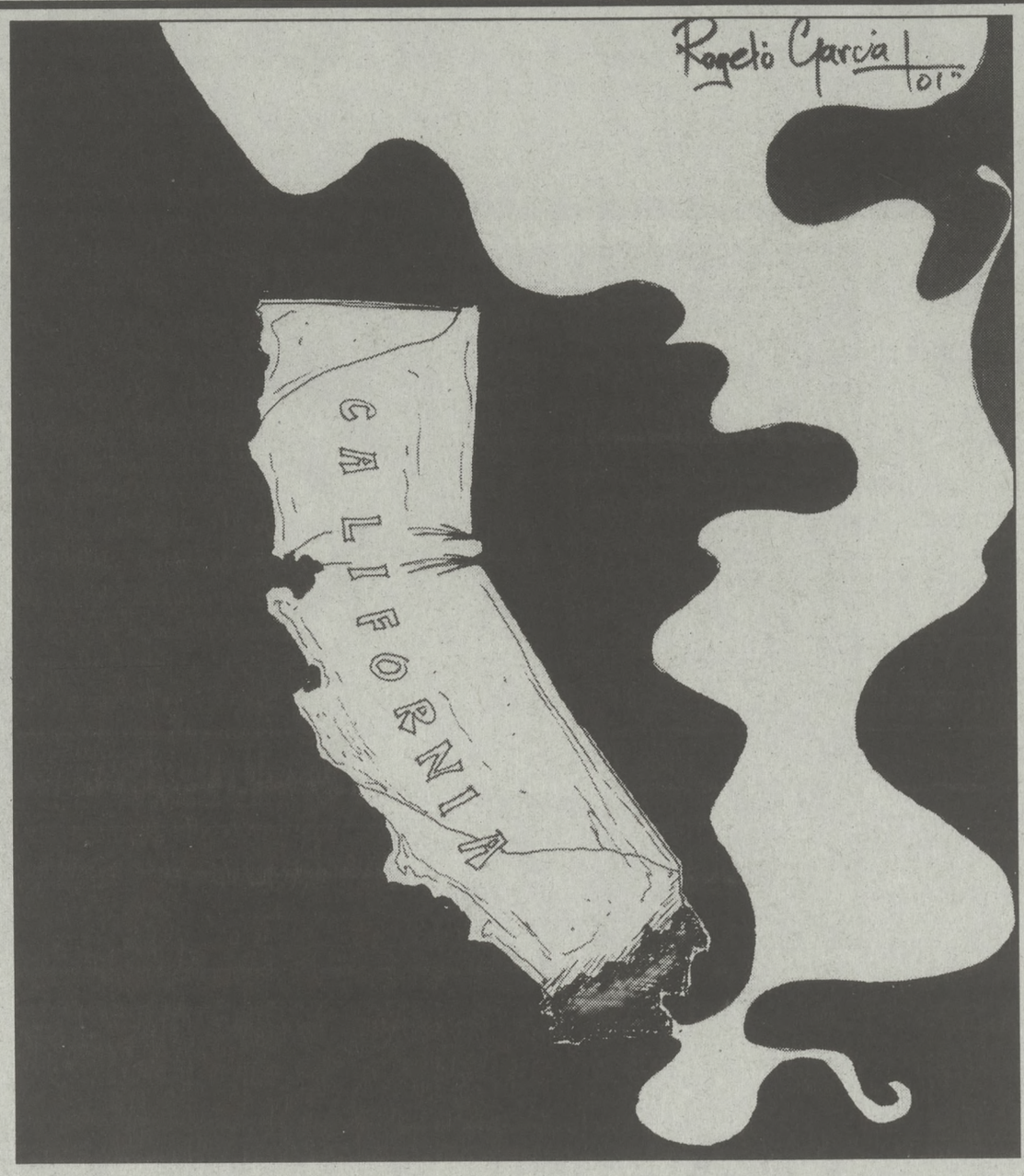
Already the federal government is threatening "home garden cultivators "with stiff penalties.

First of all, it would be well beyond the federal government 's personal and budgetary resources to stamp out individual marijuana gardens. Secondly, our jails are filled with minor drug offenders that share the same cell with criminals arrested on much harsher charges.

Restriction, without a doubt, is not the key to stop illegal drug activity, but regulation might just be a conceivable solution. With strict regulation and more extensive research, the federal government might see that a structuralized drug program is possible.

As far as the court ruling is concerned, Judge Thomas and the Supreme Court should have learned a lesson from Prohibition when alcohol was outlawed. When necessity is in conflict with restriction, people find another way.

One door closes, another one inevitably opens. But perhaps if marijuana is cautiously dispensed or regulated in a controlled environment the Supreme Court could see that patients are more interested in dulling their pain than getting a quick fix.



VIEWPOINT: Student berates Valley

By CHRISTIAN CACERES
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

What does the typical student life at Valley College consist of? From discussions with several alumni, it seems like the most common answer is "not much."

Most Valley students have a routine they stick to almost religiously:

Monday through Thursday: Wake up (too) early, skip breakfast, speed to school, become aggravated searching for an open parking stall, and dash to class. After classes, go to work and come home late.

Friday through Sunday: waste morning, then go to work and hang out with friends.

Notice how school events were not included in the schedule above. That's because there is no school spirit at Valley. Aside from the actual athletes, coaches and a couple of teachers, no one really cares about Valley events.

In fact, not many students care about Valley as a school! No most see Valley merely as a stepping-stone to better things, which is basically what it is.

As a former Valley student, the current co-host of KROQ's Loveline, Adam Corrolla, says, "It's high school with ashtrays"

Lack of school pride has resulted in an absence of participation in school events.

Did you even know you had to pay to enter school sporting events? The Valley basketball team was a division leader last year as well as this year. Have you been to a single game in the past two years?

Valley's most crowded events are its concerts, but even these are filled with neighborhood citizens and parents; not very many Valley students attend because they want to. If students weren't required to attend these concerts for class, it is doubtful that one would see more than a handful of them there.

So should Valley have more school spirit? It doesn't really matter to the typical Valley student. Valley is just the place to go to where your goal is to get out!

Most students plan on being here for a maximum of two years, then move on to a school they want to attend. And that's what makes all the difference. The typical Valley student didn't come here because it was their first choice; they came here because, for whatever reason, it turned out that way.

Voice of the People

The campus does have a voice. Let it be heard. Write letters to the Valley Star and you can have them published

*It's important that you leave a name and a phone number.

Write to us at

Attention Valley Star
Los Angeles Valley College
5800 Fulton Avenue
Valley Glen, CA 91401-2600

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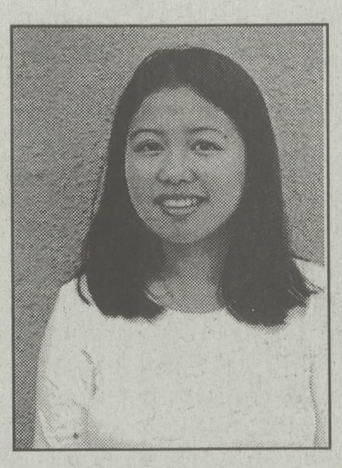
CampusView

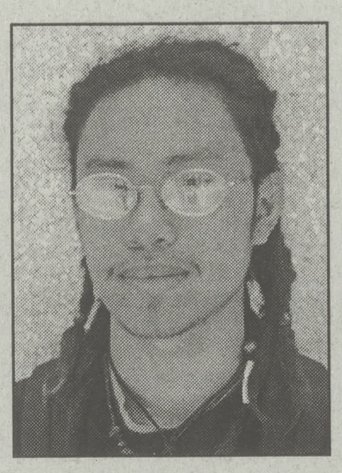
Compiled by Samantha Kuppig

What would you like to see more of in the Valley Star?



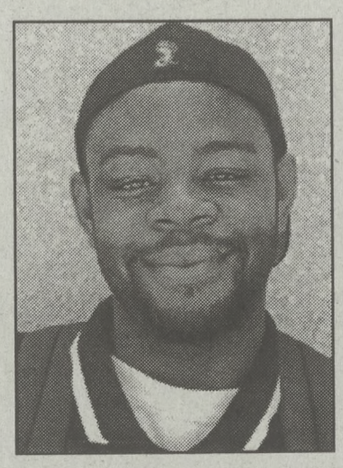
I don't read the Valley Star because none of the stories are interesting.

Althea Javellana, 19
Biology Major



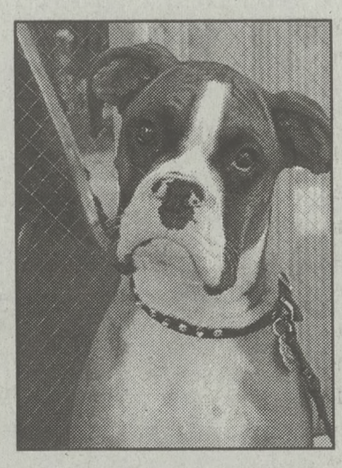
I'd like to see more of an entertainment section with an emphasis on music.

Christian Sam, 19
Art Major



The Valley Star needs to cover more sports. Basketball. Football. The coverage of the games is always a week behind. It should be more up tempo and updated. The paper needs to be on top of the game.

James Deloach, 20
Liberal Arts Major



"Ruff, roo-ruff ruff ruff" Translated into people speak that is, I'd like to read about why there are so many cats on campus and why this problem hasn't been corrected yet.

Chief, 3, Aminal Psychology Major

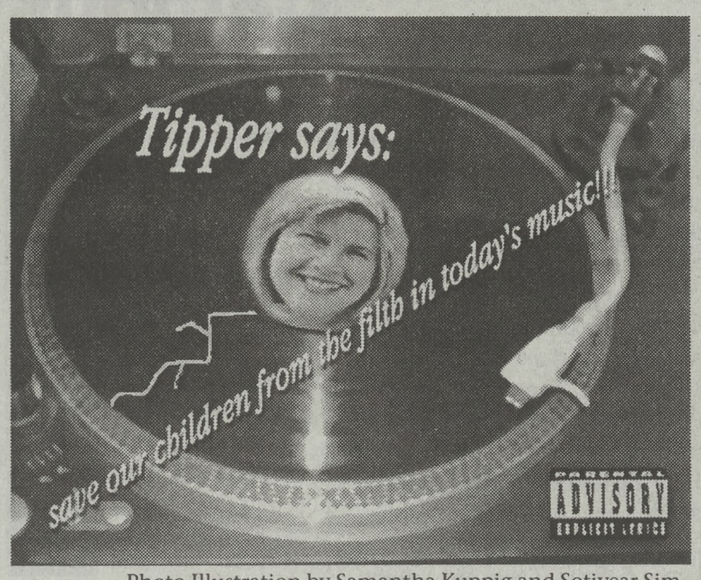
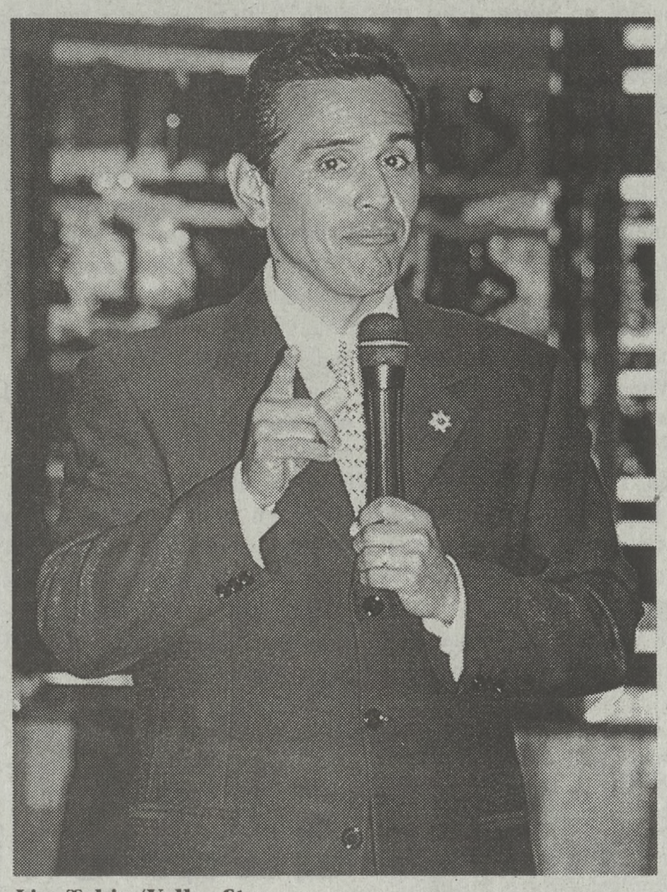
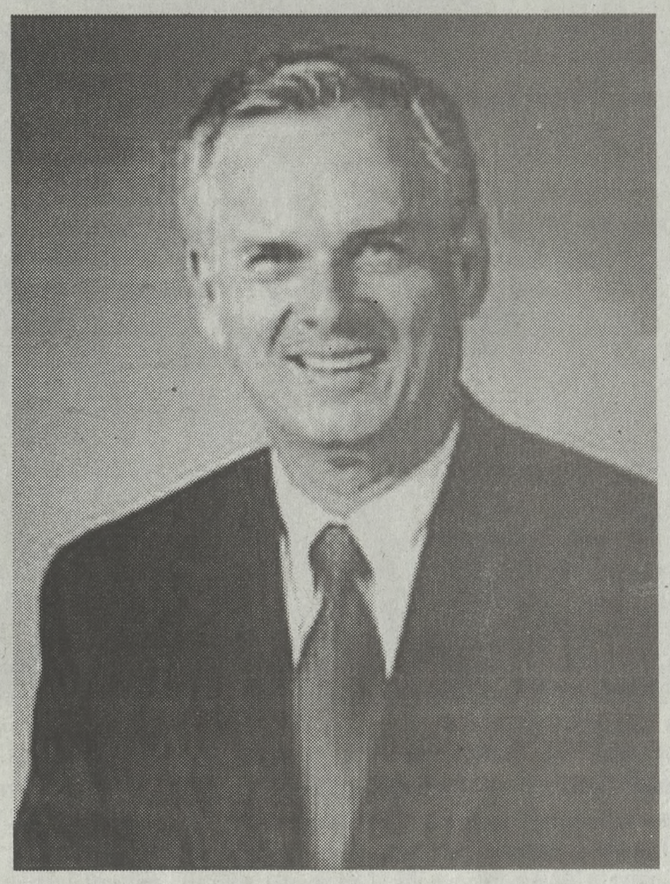


Photo Illustration by Samantha Kuppig and Sotivear Sim

Clash of the Titans?



Lisa Tobin/Valley Star



SECONDVIEW: Music Censorship

By ANDREA ZOLLMAN
STAR REPORTER

The recording industry's failure to comply with standards that it set to reduce the marketing of music that contains violent or obscene lyrics sends a message to parents that cannot be ignored.

In a recent article, the Los Angeles Times reported that the Federal Trade Commission announced that all five major record labels still routinely advertise music containing explicit lyrics on afternoon and early evening shows popular with teenagers.

That speaks volumes for the recording industry's concern for children and teenagers.

In the same article, Hilary Rosen, president of the Recording Industry Association of America, said, "We agree that we need to do a better job of following our own guidelines."

If the recording industry cannot police itself, who will be left to do the job? The government is already poised to step in, according to the Times. In the same article, the Times reported that the plan to standardize the marketing of material displaying parental advisory stickers was pulled after last year's congressional hearings because record executives feared the system would expose them to civil liability.

Further government intervention could lead to censorship. Censorship is an ugly word. While these lyrics are certainly not appropriate for children, to ban the recording and sales of such music to adults would also be inappropriate.

Recording artists must insist that their music only be marketed to an audience that is mature enough to understand the metaphors and symbolism they are trying to convey. Of course once the music is sold on the open market, control is difficult, even impossible. But adding fuel to the fire by actively marketing to children and teens is an overt gesture of commercialism and greed on the part of the artists and the industry as a whole.

The responsibility does not only lie with the artists. The industry needs to respect the wishes of parents to raise their children in a society as free from violence as possible. Why do teenagers want to listen to artists that encourage violent behavior? If the music is seen as being desirable to listen to, does that desire materialize out of nowhere, or is the desire the result of being bombarded with relentless advertising? The power of suggestion through advertising is easily observed.

Recording artist Eminem demonstrates the use of explicit lyrics in his Slim Shady EP album. One excerpt from his song posted on the eminiem2000 website, "Just The 2 Of Us," is particularly disturbing:

"...Da-da made a nice bed for mommy at the bottom of the lake / Here, you wanna help da-da tie a rope around this rock? (yeah!) / We'll tie it to her footsie then we'll roll her of the dock ... ."

And this is the version edited for radio, according to the website.

It is likely that the recording industry will continue to drag its feet on this issue. Parents must take matters into their own hands, listening to the songs their children listen to on the radio before purchasing it for their children. If it contains questionable lyrics and parents feel they must capitulate to their children's requests, then they must explain that the music is art and is the product of someone's imagination. They must explain that imitating the behavior glorified by the musicians can lead to dire consequences.

If the recording industry does become serious about labeling music with violent lyrics and restricting its marketing to appropriate audiences, it will give parents the ability to make informed choices about the music they purchase for their children and lawmakers less impetus to enact legislation to do so.

VIEWPOINT: A leap in the right direction

By ROGELIO GARCIA
STAR REPORTER

It's been seven years since California overwhelmingly passed Proposition 187, which denied health care and social services, including public schooling, to undocumented immigrants. Even thought the State Supreme Court ruled the law unconstitutional the issue of illegal immigration remains as volatile ever. Recently, the debate surrounding immigrant rights has taken a surprising turn for the better, but once again we the people have will have the final word.

U.S Rep Howard Berman (D-Mission Hills) is proposing a bill that will offer legal status to illegal immigrants who graduate high school and want to attend college. The bill proposes to give legal status to high school graduates, provided they are not yet twenty-one years of age and have been living here al leased five years.

In addition, to be eligible the persons must be enrolled in or actively pursuing admission into an accredited college or university. If passed however, the measure will only be available to those already residing in the country to avoid an on-wave of illegal immigration.

If passed the law will provide an opportunity not a service. Many illegal immigrant students have the potential to do great things, but being of undocumented status all but ruins a persons chance to pursue a higher education.

"Many illegal immigrant students have the potential to do great things, but being of undocumented status all but ruins a persons chance to pursue a higher education."

It is a travesty when we have illegal immigrants completing high school as valedictorian only to find them blocked out from further academic assistance by legal constraints and federal tuition regulations that do not provide for undocumented citizens.

The measure faces fierce opposition, however, from immigration reformers who refer to the law as "unfair." Among the opponents of the student initiative is the California Coalition for Immigration Reform (CCIR), who served as a key group in passing California's Illegal Aliens measure of 1994, a.k.a Prop 187. The group Chairwoman, Barbara Coe, was quoted in Mondays Los Angeles Times stating,
"This is discrimination against legal immigrants and U.S citizens who honestly contribute to the system."

Coe has said that Illegal-Immigrant students are one of the group's top priorities, and they have vowed to use their political connections to oppose them.

Among the supporters of the bill are Rep. Lucille Roybal Allard (D-Los Angeles) and Rebublican-Rep. Chris Cannon (Utah). A bipartisan bill on immigration will be a welcome change, one that reflects an effort by both sides to come up with a solution to help rather than hurt. Indeed, a law such as this favors everyone. This law is about justice and it's about time.

VIEWPOINT: Why Valley College?

By CORDELL LANDERS
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

What is it that makes Valley College athletes so driven for success? Is it the dedication and disciplinary skills of the coaches? Is it the passion for the game by the players? Is it a need to excel to higher institutions of learning in hopes that one might "make it Pro?" Indeed it is all of these elements. Many turn their noses at local city colleges because of the belief that there are no real successes that come from local city colleges. Many are blinded by a big university name, and, therefore, do not notice the successes.

Out of 29 athletes, this year 26 of them will be going on to bigger universities and state colleges on scholarships. These astounding numbers are part of Valley's success. At Valley athletes can work with teachers who actually care about their futures. They work with teachers who may one day hope to see a past student in their glory in the paper or on the television years after leaving Valley. Upon entering Valley, aspiring athletes know that they must maintain and surpass above and beyond in order to accomplish their goals. Valley is not the place for students to come if they are not ready to be challenged or are looking for an easy ride to their A.A. degree.

> "Here, athe-letes are well prepared for college level athletics that they will experience at some of the upper level schools."

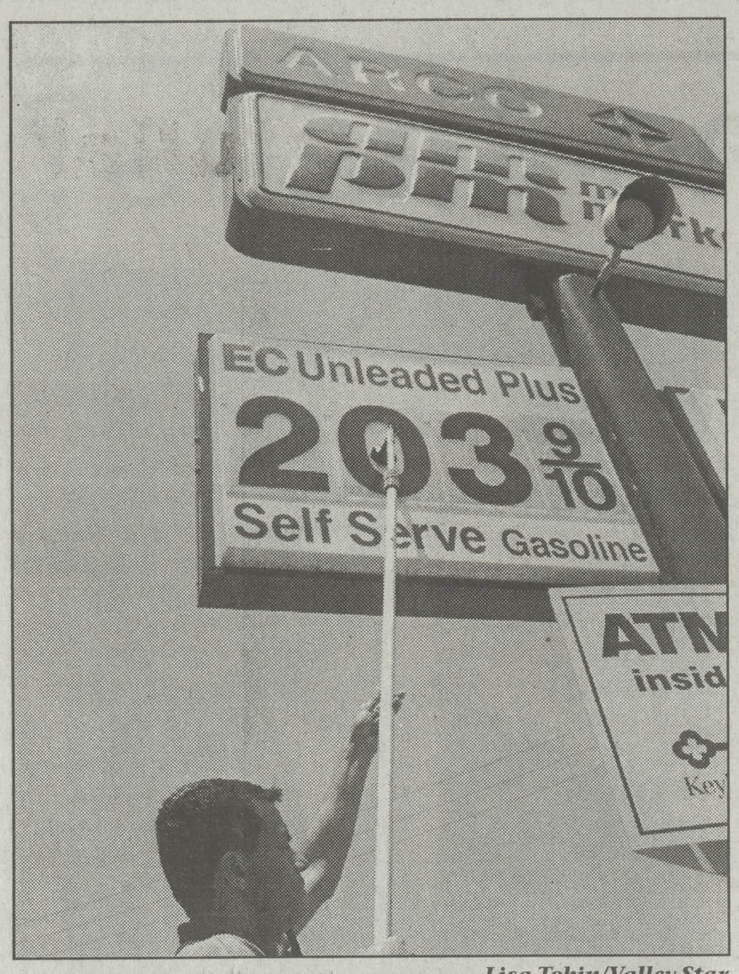
While many athletes here at Valley do go on to other places of learning where they can better themselves all around, some do not. These students are those who are looking for an easy way into a state college or are looking to find other areas where they may be better suited. Many of these students also do not give themselves a chance to reach their potential and drop out. Here at Valley, we encourage everyone, athletes alike, to pursue to the top at whatever it is that they are here to study. Valley College is the stepping stone for many and is proud to be able and apart in assisting these athletes on to their next stepping stones.

Aside from the well-managed staff and students, Valley is also a less expensive alternative to the completion of general requirements for a bachelor's degree. Students of lower income levels can come to Valley and comfortably pay for their education. Valley offers a wide variety of transferable classes that many University of California and California State University school systems will accept. There is also the opportunity for students to network among a wide variety of cultures.

Valley also offers a wide variety of tutorial classes for those who are having difficulty with certain subjects or cannot maintain a class schedule during the day. Here, our sense of community drives us to make sure that our students are getting the best options for their needs.

Here, athletes are well prepared for college level athletics that they will experience at some of the upper level schools. Valleys athletics are well-rounded, polished and are more than determined when they leave Valley. In conclusion, it is no wonder why Valley athletes are offered so many scholarships. With its highly dedicated staff of coaches and teachers and high performance students there is nothing else but success that can be achieved.

The Valley Star and the Valley Star online will return in September.



Lisa Tobin/Valley Star

Their seems to be no limit to the record highs in gas prices. It seems likely that it will only become worse during the on coming summer months when demand is at its peak.

Gas prices

CONT'D FROM **PAGE ONE**

information page, specifically created for co
nsumer reference, "Refiners and distributors no longer have the flexibility they need to move supplies around
the nation to respond to local or regional shortages."

Californians, however, are paying much more than the rest of the country.

First, the state tax comes out to more than 30 cents a gallon. Second, the gasoline sold in California is a special kind of fuel. When this fuel runs low, the surplus from neighboring states cannot be imported to refresh our supplies. The process of refining fuel to be environmentally friendlier to California also has its cost, which also must be passed over to consumers.

Still, those in the business of petroleum products remain optimistic.

Chevron's website emphasizes how low gas rates are when adjusted for inflation. It also goes into the entire history of the oil crisis, with reference as far back as the great depression and to the beginnings of the company's origins.

David J. O'Reilly, chairman of the board and chief executive officer, describes how fuel efficient modern cars are and says, "...gasoline without taxes right now costs about 7 cents a mile. That's still a good value in personal transportation."

Formerly, president Clinton, and now President George W. Bush, resisted appeals to temporarily eliminate the 18.4 cent gas tax. Bush felt the tax would be an "ineffective quick fix" to our fuel crisis. It is the federal gas tax that supplies consumers with a well-maintained highway system and paved streets.

"Sport-utility vehicles have replaced the compacts," says USA Today's De Wayne Wickham. "Ridership on the patchwork mass transit systems in Baltimore and Los Angeles is stagnant. Most public transit buses still run on diesel fuel, not electricity."

Because of environmental regulations, oil companies have yet to build to build new refineries in California. The converse has taken place, with 10 California refineries being closed since 1985, making for a 20 percent cut in gasoline production, reports Los Angeles Time Staff Writer, James F. Peltz. There are currently more than 95 different types of gasoline for sale in the United States.

Yet, names posted on street corners such as Shell, Chevron and the new Conglomerate, Exxon-Mobil, are reporting big quarter profits to their corporate
share holders, writes Peltz, who makes the claim that "the companies that refine oil into gasoline are turning much higher profits."

Boot camp

CONT' D FROM **PAGE ONE**

the place."

Despite the war, the Marine Corps also gave McSweeny a taste of life outside of south Boston. He has traveled the world, visiting such places as Japan, Korea, Thailand, Africa, India, and the list goes on.

After 10 years in the corps, McSweeny said it wasn't much of a challenge anymore. "I wanted to be a drill instructor, which was the epitome of [a] Marine Corps instructor," McSweeny said. "I did that. What haven't I done yet? OK, then I'll get my college education. I wanted something challenging."

He hopes to continue with his education; however, "Boot Camp" has opened a lot of new possibilities. It may be picked up for another season, and he has other projects on which he is currently working.

After surviving 10 years in the Marine Corps and the Gulf War, Valley should be a breeze.

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Quake

CONT'D FROM **PAGE ONE**

"These two houses will have LAVC's school colors," Marroquin said. "We need to understand that these houses, to our standards, would look like shacks. But down there they will be valued as permanent homes."

Marroquin could have easily just sent the money, but he wanted to see the look of the small children's faces he was helping and to feel the full effect of the earthquake on his people.

"One man can make a difference," said professor Roger Graham a long time friend and colleague. " He's and example of what one man can do. There are few times when one man can say that I have made a difference."

On his return from El Salvador, Marroquin found more contributions. He intends to use the funds to build more homes on his return trip to El Salvador.

Genocide

CONT'D FROM **PAGE ONE**

the treaty, lands that had been taken away were also to be allotted back to Armenia. This treaty was overlooked because of the president's illness.

Melkon Melkonian, who is the president of the AYF valley chapter, also spoke about the significance of teaching the new generation of Armenian children about the fate their ancestors suffered under the hands of the government at the time. Melkonian said how detrimental it is for the U.S. as a leading nation to recognize the Armenian Genocide.

Thirty out of fifty states have already recognized the Armenian Genocide. If the U.S. nationally recognizes the genocide, it would be a catalyst for recognition of the genocide by the U.N.

Armenians from all over the world come together every year on April 24 to commemorate the lives that were lost because of the genocide and hope to bring the matter the recognition it deserves. Soudjian said "We will continue to be at the Turkish Embassy for as long as it takes until we have closure on the genocide."

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Campus SCENE

LAVC TOWN HALL MEETING on Thursday, May 24, at 1:00pm-2:30pm in the Fireside room in Campus Center. All are welcome to attend. The topic of discussion will be LAVC's Master Plan for revitalizing Valley

Musical Events

CSUN African Music Ensemble directed by Ric Alviso will perform on Thursday, May 24 at 11:30am. in the Music Recital Hall.
For more info on this event or any other events call (818) 947-2346.

Theater

Guys and Dolls

The drama department's production is playing in the Little Theatre running May 24, 25 and 26.
For more info call (818) 947-2790.

Student Art

Show in the Art Department in the Gallery. The show is running from now until May 24, 2001, from 11am-2pm and in the evening from 7pm-9pm. For more information call (818) 947-2400. Today is the last day!!!

SUMMER EVENTS

SUMMER IN ISRAEL

3 week Creative Writing and Jewish Thought in Jerusalem Program offered through West LA College, June 20-July 12. Contact Bernard Goldberg at (310) 287-4551 for more info.

USC

AICCU's Transfer Summer Academy This a a great opportunity to live in a dormatory for one week to preview campus life for the week of July 8-13 or July 15-20. Go to the Career/Transfer office for more information.. Registration deadline is June 12.

MEET THE PROS

The Academy of Television Arts & Sciences and the LAVC Media Arts Department are sponsoring this event on Saturday, June 2, 9:30am-12:30pm in Monarch Hall. This is a free event open to Valley Students. Meet execs, producers, directors animators etc...

WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY

Sat. May 26, 11am-4pm @FAME Church on 2270 S. Harvard Blvd. in Los Angeles.

ALERT STUDENTS!

Memorial Day Holiday Monday May 28, 2001 No School!

Drama students electrify audience

By E. N. ZACARIAS
STAR REPORTER

With the roll of a dice and hopes that luck be a lady tonight, the Little Theater bla bla Broadway-style on Thursday.

Nothing more than a vibrantly stylized version of Frank Loesser's classical Broadway musical-proudly presented by the theater department-"Guys and Dolls" burst onto the stage like gangbusters. It also showcased colorful acting, whimsical characters and an outstanding costume design that is truly something to see.

In the Little Theater's version of the Big Apple, Nathan Detroit, played by Jack Bennett, runs the ever-floating craps game (to his girlfriend Adelaide's dismay) while Sky Masterson (Adam Cloud) and Salvation Army missionary Sarah Brown (Vanya Marinkovic) find an unlikely romance. Both Cloud and Bennett are good actors and can surprisingly carry a tune. But, Marinkovic in the role of Sarah, was not quite capable of finding her vocal style but that's not to say that she didn't try.

The person who really stole the show, however, was Jenni Bonavries as Miss Adelaide. Not only was she genuinely charming and funny to the point of being memorable but she was also able to deliver songs like "Adelaide's Lament" with the right touch of sexiness and comical flair.

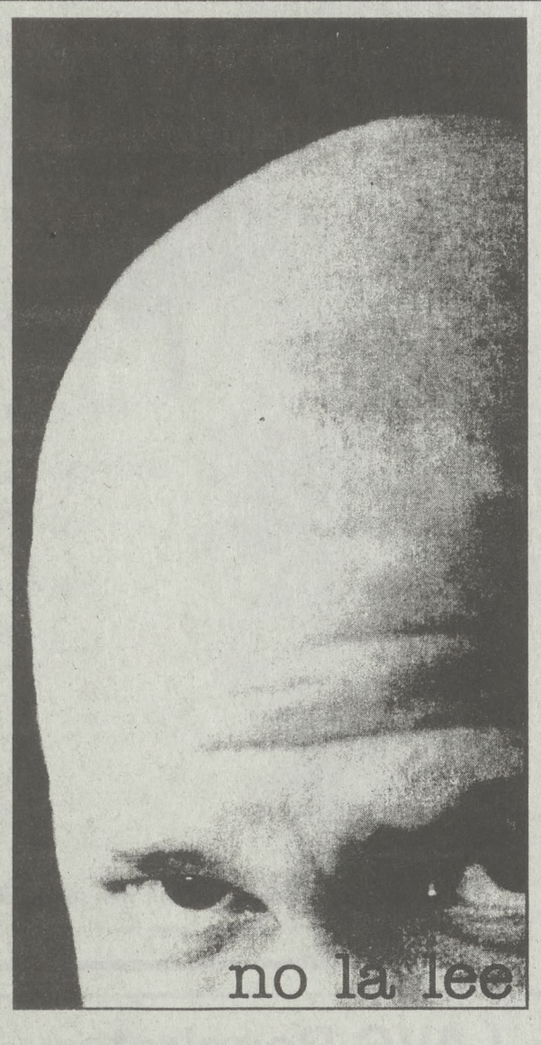
And the rest of the troupe, which included Professor Richard Raskoff as Liver Lips Louie, was in top form—not to mention the ever-so sexy Hot Box Girls-and the music was terrific. It was particularly great to hear the lively novelty tunes and the hit songs such as "Luck Be a Lady" that made this musical so popular.

The production was also rich with dynamic dance numbers-with The Crapshooter's Dance in the second act standing out among the other wonderful dance sequences-and much of that is due to Carla Lubow's high-energy choreography.

"Guys and Dolls" will continue to run for three more nights and surprisingly there is no admission price.

Miss Adelaide (Jenni Bonavries), the lead Hot Box Girl, was featured at a reception for "Guys and Dolls" held in the Little Theater on Saturday, May 19.

Lisa Tobin/ Valley Star



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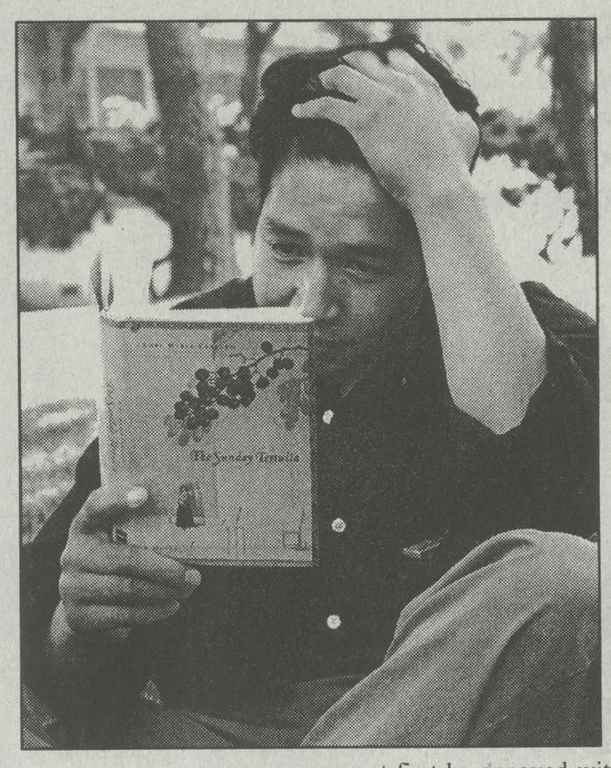
BOOK REVIEW:

"The Sunday Tertulia"

"The Sunday Tertulia," by Lori Marie Carlson. Harper Collins Publisher, Inc 208 pp. $ 23.00



Salvador Aguilar/Valley Star

By ANDREA ZOLLMAN
STAR REPORTER

Advice about romance, work, food, health and happiness, all with a Latin flare, sums up Lori Marie Carlson's first novel, "The Sunday Tertulia."

Carlson holds a master's degree in Hispanic literature and puts her knowledge of Latin culture to use by creating vivid images in this novel about Claire, a college graduate from Prendergast, New York, and her inclusion into a group of educated, middle-aged Latinas who become her friends and mentors.

The story begins with a preface in which Claire sets the scene for the book. After graduation, she moves to Manhattan not knowing a soul. One lonely day, she visits the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. There she encounters Isabela, a retired pharmacist, who pulls Claire into her intimate circle of five friends. The fact that Claire, who calls herself a Yankee, speaks fluent Spanish endears her to these women from diverse Latin American backgrounds who gather at Isabela's apartment to "share poetic musings, secret sorrows, and savory treats."

"A tertulia, by nature, involves a lot of thinking out loud about everything," Claire says. And the dialogue Carlson uses to reflect this thinking out loud effectively conveys the mood of the tertulia.

And with lively dialogue representative of passionate conversations peppered with Latin American sayings, Carlson draws the reader into the tertulia. The characters argue about what is the best remedy for a sore throat or a broken heart. Claire sometimes balks at their opinionated views about romance, work and men. The reader, too, may at first be annoyed with the eagerness of the women to influence Claire and each other. However, these women become loved by Claire and to the reader by the end of the novel.

Claire also sets the scene for each of the 12 tertulias she attends in the course of a year. And sometimes Claire's monologues become a bit tedious, as when Claire describes her move to New York at the beginning of the book. But perhaps Carlson wants to model the meditations of an inexperienced, naïve woman who finds herself engulfed by a voracious city.

But readers will find that the novel is worth any superfluous information Claire supplies. The story is unique in that there is no crashing climax or cliffhanger. But the reader will begin to wonder and care about the characters: will Luna, the Peruvian chef, leave her unfaithful spouse; will Claire stay in her dead-end position as a paralegal to a sexist boss.

And Claire evolves into a woman who has a direction and a purpose. The women, as she says, "have opened doors to truths I hadn't thought about, made me see so many possibilities where I saw obstacles."

Carlson's other literary works include seven books for young adults. If, in "The Sunday Tertulia," her goal was to introduce an alternative to the rising action present in traditional novels, then she has succeeded.

And that is the gift of "The Sunday Tertulia": With its unique style of storytelling, it opens the door to a culture so full of wisdom and creativity and to possibilities unexplored.

Racing

CONT'D FROM **PAGE ONE**

in a disapproving manner in response to her opinion of the street races.

"It wasn't too great," says Kevin, a first timer at the races. "You really couldn't see anything much."

It's not surprising that people who see the street races for the first time are disappointed. The advertisement campaign for "The Fast and the Furious" focuses on one thing, adrenaline, something hard to come by after hours of waiting and tedious driving from one meeting spot to the next. Those who don't find the street races exciting may attempt to create their own "rush."

A CRX whines with each push of the throttle. The car taunts those around it. The crowd watches uninterestedly, only turning their heads in reflex to the source of the piercing sound. With no one daring to face, not the slow the car, but the consequences of racing, the Honda remains unchallenged. In an expulsion of energy and small excitement, the driver throws his car down the line, giving way to no one in his path.

Other times, people will burn out, spinning their tires furiously, making a billowing cloud of white smoke. Sometimes people will raise and drop, and raise and drop their vehicle, compliments of a hydraulic set up, as some way to entertain themselves at the rather lifeless street races. Many times the police are already waiting at the racing spot. Other times they simply break up the gathering before the street racers even have a chance to get over to their proposed racing strip.

A police car maneuvers itself through the crowd of lightly modified coupes and sedans. Few people take notice of the intruder. No one shouts "Cop!" People do not scramble for their car, door handle, keys and ignition, respectively. A loud speaker declares, "If you are not buying gas... GET OUT!" Eyes widen and the flight begins. A caravan of low slung imports form, en route to the next race locale. It seems as if the street races have become so dull even those attending blatantly lie to complete strangers.

A teenager, driving a Pontiac Trans-Am with tinkered camshaft timing and tailpipes that spew blue flames, says he came to the street races because he has the fastest car here. He didn't race his car all night. Another racer in a poorly kept Camaro IROC-Z says he put down five thousand dollars on a race and that he was "planning on betting ten thousand tonight." He was later seen riding shotgun in "his" car.

But as more people come, as do more of those looking for a shot of adrenaline, more spectators and less real racers, it is no longer the street races. It is a hangout, an alternative to a house party, rave, concert or even a movie about street racing.

"What else am I gonna do," says a grizzled young person standing by his aged, customized Honda Civic hatchback. "Go to the beach?"

Are you between the ages of 18 and 55? Have you been diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder? California Clinical Trials, a leading research facility is seeking volunteers for an important medical research study on Bipolar Disorder. Qualified participants receive a free limited physical exam, lab tests and may be compensated up to $2,880.00.

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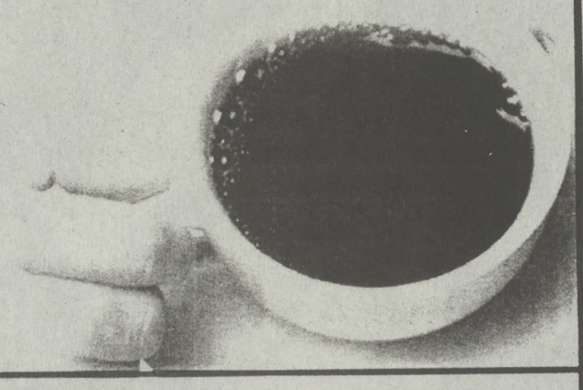

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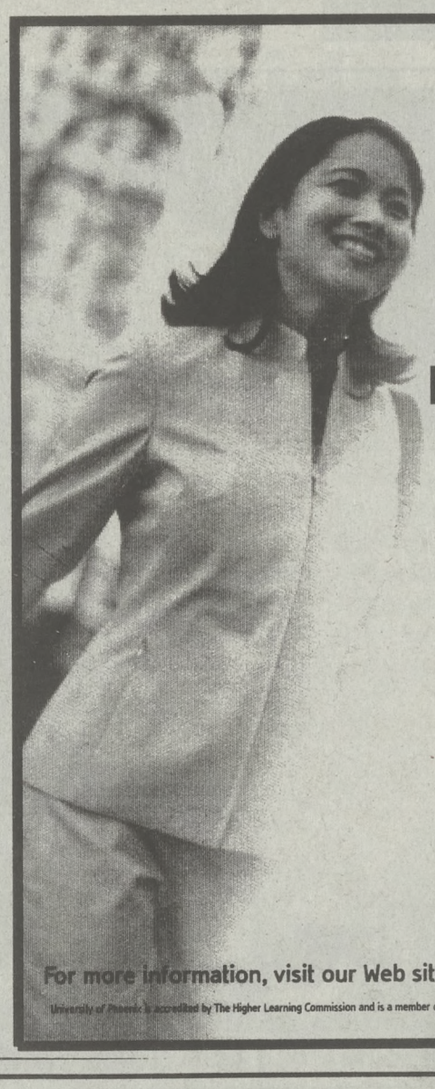

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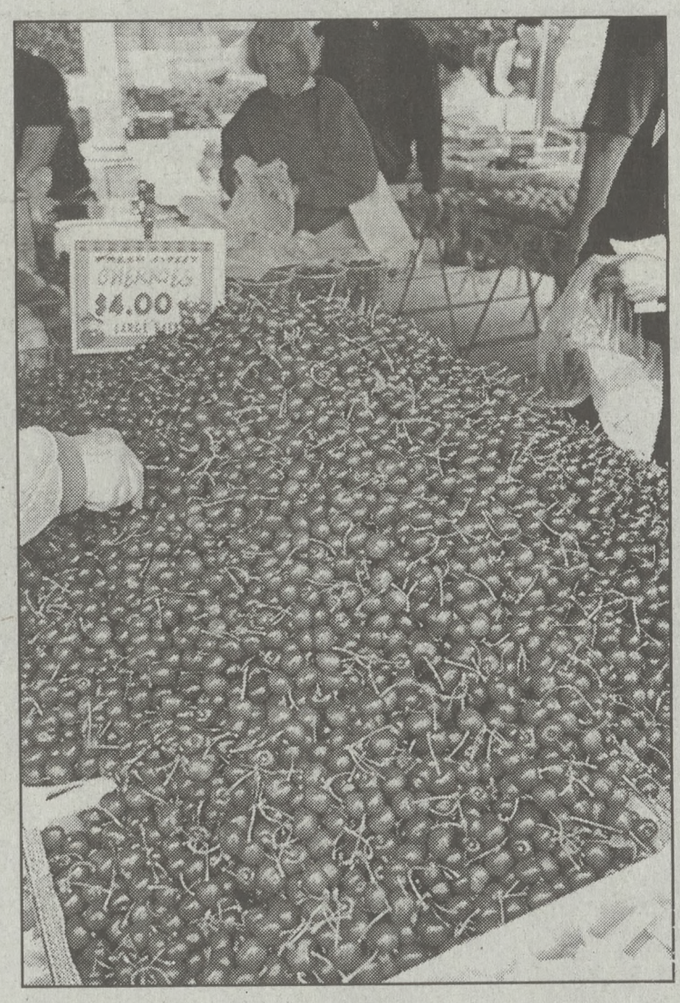
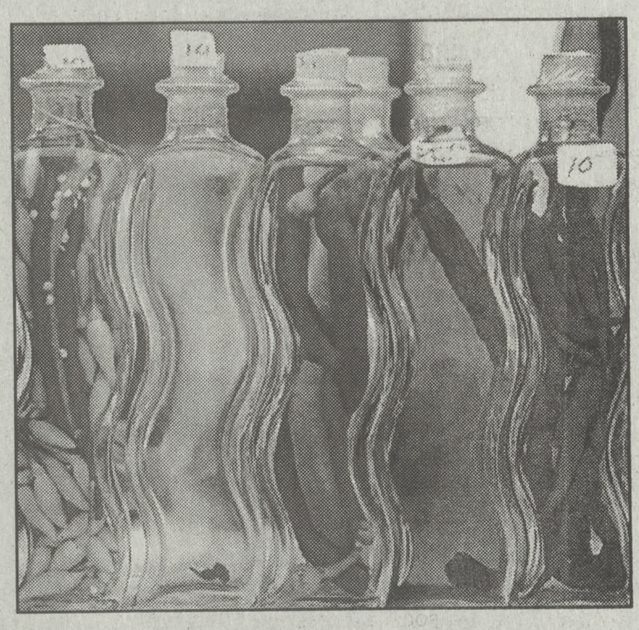
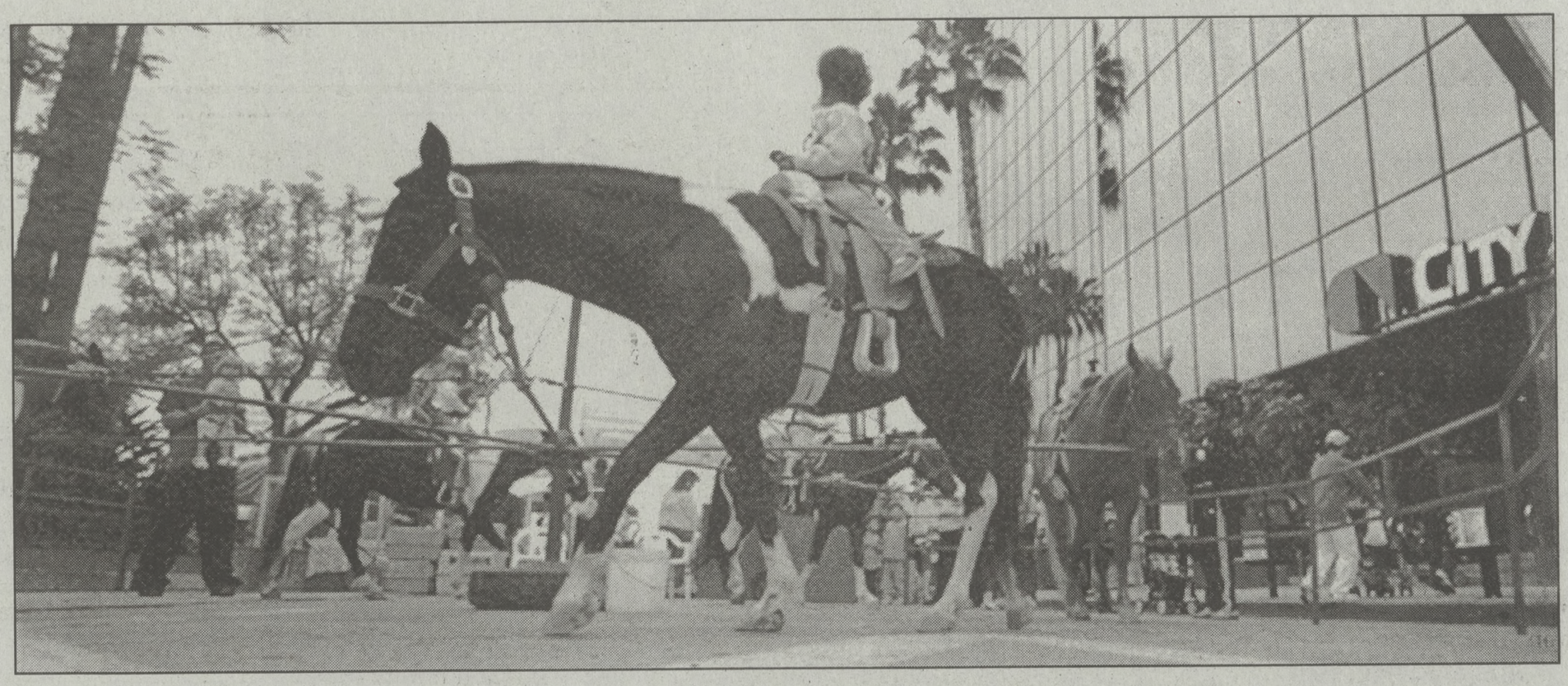
Farmer's Market

Farmers markets trace back to a time when people still lived in rural villages and would bring their surplus produce and goods to the market everyday to barter and buy things. To this day even in the fast paced world of Los Angeles people still enjoy the tranquil atmosphere of a Farmers market. A draw for many people is the fresh produce, the hospitable service and the fun atmoshpere.





Photos and layout by Salvador Aguilar



Ten and eight

By RAFAEL E. HERNANDEZ
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The Monarchs baseball team won its last game with a score of 11-2 runs over Bakersfield at the Monarch's home field May 5.

"Monarchs have a lot of losses; this is not a good team," Phil Subar said. "I don't know anybody."

The game started when a Bakersfield player connected a triple.

This hit gave the first run to the visitors. Again a second hit from Bakersfield team gave Bakersfield another run and the score 2-0, but at the end of the first inning the Monarchs put the score at 2-2.

The Monarchs scored one run in the second inning putting them in the lead, 3-2. The Monarchs obtained five runs in the fifth inning and the score was 8-2. In the seventh inning, the Monarchs connected two runs and in the eighth inning, one run.

In the ninth and last inning, no one scored and Bakersfield only made two runs in the first inning.

"The pitcher, Chris Walker, was the man of the game, good relief of Oscar Marin and Matt Jackson," said Monarchs head coach Chris Johnson.

"Too many errors of our team and too many baseball players weren't called to play," said Bakersfield fan Lupe Martinez.

"We focus on the game and hit all the time," said Monarch's player Toby Noe.

"They lose man games," Petra Sandoval, the mother of Tony Sanchez said.

"We lost 32 games and we won 6 games," Monarch's team member Tony Sandoval said.

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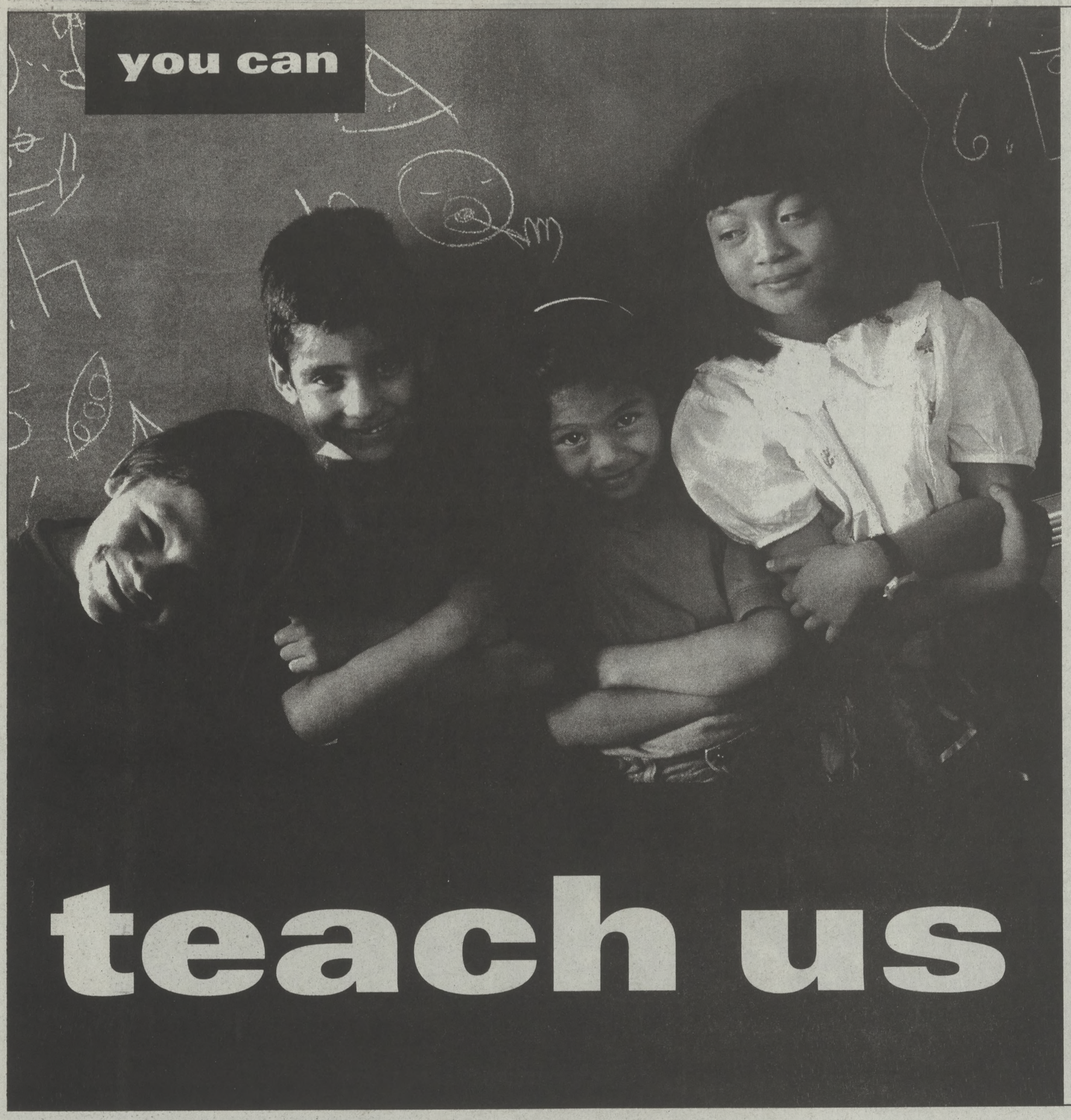

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